

## Newsletter

**March 2025**

### **Welcome from Dr Manjiri Bodhe (Head of School) & Dr Nick Moore (Deputy Head of School)**

Welcome to our March edition of the Wessex Head of School newsletter. We wanted to update you on what is being offered in Wessex for our Trainers and our Resident Doctors.

We have updated our website to include our Frequently Asked Questions, <https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/general-practice/gp-training/> Many questions can be answered here and may save you the time of sending an email.

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### **Contacts**

Please ensure you are using the correct email addresses to contact the GP school and Patch Admin teams.

GP School [england.gp.wx@nhs.net](mailto:england.gp.wx@nhs.net)  
Dorset [england.dorsetgptraining.se@nhs.net](mailto:england.dorsetgptraining.se@nhs.net)  
Mid-Wessex [england.mwgpe.se@nhs.net](mailto:england.mwgpe.se@nhs.net)  
Portsmouth [england.portsmouthgpenquiries.se@nhs.net](mailto:england.portsmouthgpenquiries.se@nhs.net)  
Southampton [england.sotongpeuteam.se@nhs.net](mailto:england.sotongpeuteam.se@nhs.net)

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### **Inductions**

We would like to give a warm welcome to our February ST1s, we hope you enjoyed your recent induction sessions, it was fantastic to see so many faces. Our registrar induction handbook has also recently been updated, you can access it [here](#) <https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/general-practice/wessex-ait-sub-committee>

If you feel that you require their support, then please contact the IMG Welfare Service. <https://www.hiowpeople.nhs.uk/img-welfare-service/> or <https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/trainee-information/trainee-journey/international-medical-graduates/>

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### **Blended Learning**

You may have heard about this as a future model for delivering some of the GP training programme. There is currently a small pilot underway in Thames Valley to see how this can be implemented more widely. We had previously anticipated this being rolled out later this year, however this is now likely to be in 2026. We will update you once we have more definite plans.

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### **TSS (TIS Self Service)**

You will be able to log in and view your placement details at Code of Practice, these will be uploaded to TSS leading up to Code of Practice and will be available to view by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

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## Exams

The RCGP have announced some changes to the AKT exam, in particular a reduction in the number of questions. There is more information and a detailed FAQ on the college website [MRCGP exams](#)

You can view recorded SCA webinars and Q&A sessions for Trainers and Trainees here.

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/simulated-consultation-assessment/preparing#Webinars>

For any educators who would like to develop further skills in this area and have not already attended an AKT SOX course, for further details please contact [england.gpexams.wx@nhs.net](mailto:england.gpexams.wx@nhs.net)

Our patch teams receive a lot of queries about exam regulations. The RCGP website is an excellent and comprehensive resource, and we will usually signpost any questions to their pages. In practice a lot of issues can be resolved simply by checking their regulations and guidance first. There is also detailed information about the rules and deadlines to apply for reasonable adjustments. The link is [MRCGP exams](#).

The RCGP website is also an incredible resource for aiding in your curriculum guidance and support in achieving a positive outcome at your ARCP. [www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/wpba](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/wpba)

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## ARCP

For ARCP guidance please speak to your TPD/ ES/ Patch and see below links.

<https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/general-practice/gp-training/>

<https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/accreditation-and-revalidation/arcp/>

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/mrcgp-exams/wpba/annual-review-of-competence-progression>

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## Study Leave

The Wessex GP School study leave guidance has recently been updated and can be found here [Study-Leave-for-Wx-GP-School.pdf](#). Please note that study leave needs to be approved and agreed with your educational supervisor as being appropriate for your educational needs. During ST3, the half day release course also accounts for about 15 days of a Resident Doctor's available study leave. We often receive requests for extended periods of study leave to prepare for exams. We know the best way to learn is by being in practice, and all resident doctors have scheduled private study time in their working week which should be used for revision if needed. Whilst it can be acceptable to take 1-2 days of study leave prior to an exam, taking extended periods of leave to revise is not appropriate and is likely to be declined.

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## MPS Indemnity

As a doctor, you have a professional responsibility to ensure you are indemnified for your full scope of practice as a Resident Doctor (Please see the guidance on the [GMC website](#)). If you do not have indemnity cover in place, please contact [england.gp.wx@nhs.net](mailto:england.gp.wx@nhs.net)

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## 2025 GMC National Training Survey

The 2025 GMC National Training Survey opens on Tuesday 18 March. It is an opportunity for both Resident Doctors and trainers to feedback on their experience of training. In Wessex, our response rates for the GP School are relatively low- resident doctor response rates were 60.5% and for 33% trainers (the Wessex average for all specialities was 71% for resident doctors and 40% for trainers). The results of the survey are looked at nationally, and in Wessex we are asked to investigate issues that are flagged by the survey. It is therefore an opportunity to help us improve the training experience, so please try and respond when you see the email reminders about the survey.

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### Trainer & Trainee Support

In addition to the Trainers Grant, we also have several other resources to support trainees. The Professional Support and Wellbeing Service (PSW) can provide pastoral support to trainees.

If you feel you or your Resident Doctor would benefit from additional support, please speak with your Patch Associate Dean who can advise on the best way we can help.

A referral to The Professional Support and Wellbeing Service (PSW) should be jointly conducted by the Resident Doctor and the Trainer. For more information about the PSW team please see the website. <https://wessex.hee.nhs.uk/wellbeing-and-support/psw/>

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### Trainers with GMC Conditions

We want to remind trainers that if they have any involvement with the GMC, we expect this to be flagged to your local patch Associate Dean so that we can ensure both you and the Resident Doctor receive appropriate support.

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### Travel to and from the workplace

It has come to our attention that a number of Resident Doctors do not hold a valid driver's licence and means to travel within their job.

We would like to remind you all, that the person specification that you signed when you applied to GP stated the following: "Hold a current and in date valid driving licence or provides an undertaking to provide alternative means of transport when providing emergency and domiciliary care to fulfil the requirements of the whole training programme."

For those who hold an international driver's licence, please ensure you check that the licence is valid. If you need help with getting a UK driving licence, our IMG welfare support team can help. More information here: <https://www.hiowpeople.nhs.uk/img-welfare-service/>

If you have queries, please speak to your nominated Training Programme Director.

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